

CHARTER

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The National Children's Study Advisory Committee (NCSAC; also referred to as "Committee") shall advise and make recommendations to the Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the Director, National Children's Study, and the Interagency Coordinating Committee of the National Children's Study, on present and future issues in the planning and implementation of the National Children's Study.

The Committee is in the public interest and supports the NICHD, along with a consortium of representatives from appropriate Federal agencies (including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the Environmental Protection Agency), in performing duties and responsibilities under the Public Law 106-310 (Title X, section 1004) of the Children's Health Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. section 285g note). Specifically, these duties and responsibilities are to plan, develop, and implement a national longitudinal study of environmental influences (including physical, chemical, biological, and psychosocial) on children's health and development.

AUTHORITY

42 U.S.C. 282(b)(6); section 402(b)(6) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The Committee is governed by provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

FUNCTION

The Committee shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Director, NICHD, Director, National Children's Study, and the Interagency Coordinating Committee of the National Children's Study, on the planning and implementation of the Study.

As necessary, the Committee and subcommittees may call upon special consultants, assemble ad hoc working groups, and convene conferences and workshops.

STRUCTURE

The Committee shall consist of no more than 40 members, including the Chair, appointed by the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH). A majority of the members shall serve as authorities of nonfederal interests. The Chair of the Committee shall be either a Federal member or a non-Federal member. The Committee will include four nonvoting ex officio members: the Director, NICHD; the Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; (or their designees); and such additional officers or employees of the United States as the Director, NIH, determines necessary for the Committee to carry out its functions. Members will be selected from among, but are not limited to, state, local, and tribal governments, academia, industry, community, health services, public health, and public interest groups.

Nonfederal members will be selected based upon balanced membership of all stakeholders and on their knowledge and expertise in the fields of interest in this multidisciplinary activity, such as epidemiology, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, toxicology, biostatistics, bioethics, public health, applicable law, social and behavioral sciences, genetics, health care delivery, community outreach, and patient advocacy.

Members shall be invited to serve for overlapping terms of up to four years. Terms of more than two years are contingent upon renewal of the Committee's Charter by appropriate action prior to its expiration. Members may serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have taken office. A quorum for the conduct of business by the full Committee shall consist of a majority of currently appointed members.

As necessary, subcommittees may be established to perform functions within the Committee's jurisdiction. The advice/recommendations of a subcommittee must be deliberated by the parent advisory committee. A Subcommittee may not report directly to a Federal official unless there is statutory authority to do so.

Subcommittee membership may be drawn in whole or in part from the parent advisory committee. All subcommittee members may vote on subcommittee actions and all subcommittee members count towards the quorum for a subcommittee meeting. Ad hoc consultants do not count towards the quorum and may not vote. Subcommittee members who are not members of the parent committee may attend closed sessions of the parent committee meeting but they may not count towards the quorum of the parent committee and they cannot vote on committee actions.

Management and support services shall be provided by the Office of the Director, NICHD, which shall also appoint an Executive Secretary.

MEETINGS

Meetings shall be held at least once a year at the call of the Chair, with the advance approval of a Government official or upon the request of the Director, NICHD. A Government official shall approve the agenda and shall be present at all meetings.

Meetings shall be open to the public except as determined otherwise by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Notice of all meetings shall be given to the public.

Meetings shall be conducted and records of the proceedings kept, as required by applicable laws and Departmental policies.

COMPENSATION

Members shall be paid at the rate of \$200 per day, plus per diem and travel expenses, as authorized by section 5703, Title 5 U.S.C., as amended, for persons in the Government service employed intermittently. Members who are officers or employees of the United States Government shall not receive compensation for service on the Committee.

ANNUAL COST ESTIMATE

To study the wide array of environmental influences on children, including physical, chemical, biological, and psychosocial factors, input of experts from over twenty disciplines is required. This extensive input is required for identification of recommended core hypotheses, pilot studies, and design elements for the study. The estimated annual cost for operating the Committee and subcommittees, including compensation and travel expenses for members, but excluding staff support, is \$1,495,546. The estimate of annual person-years of staff support required is 2.0 at an estimated annual cost of \$235,780.

REPORTS

In the event a portion of a meeting is closed to the public, a report shall be prepared which shall contain, at a minimum, a list of members and their business addresses, the Committee's functions, dates and places of meetings, and a summary of the Committee's activities and recommendations made during the fiscal year. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Department Committee Management Officer.

TERMINATION DATE

Unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration, the Charter for the National Children's Study will expire on October 1, 2007.

APPROVED:

Date

Director, NIH